

activity, follows it through the fish, quoting the studies by Marine and Lenhardt on the development of goiter in fish, and pointing out that no parathyroid activity is discoverable in any forms of life to and through the fishes.

For the first time in the amphibia is found parathyroid gland activity and parathyroidectomy is not difficult in these animals because the glands are not in association with other endocrines. Parathyroidectomy in frogs leads to a drop in blood calcium from 11.5 to 7.7 mgm. per 100 ml. and leads to death of the animal. The book reviews the many studies which have shown the necessity for thyroid tissue or iodine to bring about metamorphosis in the tadpole.

Little is known about thyroid activity in reptiles except that thyroidectomy prolongs the period between moultings, in snakes but does not prevent them, and there is no evidence of parathyroid activity in reptiles. From birds on up through mammals the function of parathyroid tissue seems to be quite closely akin to that in human beings and parathyroidectomy leads to a drop in blood calcium and death from tetany in a few days. Birds are particularly good subjects for studies on parathyroid activity because parathyroidectomy is simple and can be done without disturbing the thyroid gland itself.

It is in mammals particularly that extensive experimental work has been done which can readily be translated into human clinical problems. On reading this small volume through one cannot but be impressed by the great contributions that have been made to the understanding of human physiology through animal experimentation. With the advent of the anti-thyroid drugs and iodine 131 there is hardly a clinical problem arising in human beings upon which much light cannot be shed by carrying out studies on properly selected mammals. It is particularly impressive to note how many of our present accepted clinical procedures, in relation to disease of the thyroid and parathyroid glands, have had their origin in carefully conducted animal experimentation. For a timely review of the entire subject Dr. Fleischmann's book is highly recommended.

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**MANUAL THERAPY.** By James B. Mennell, M.A., M.D., B.C. (Cantab.), Consulting Physician in Physical Medicine, St. Thomas's Hospital, Vice-President and Hon. Fellow, Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, London, England, Gold Key of the American Congress of Physical Medicine, Gold Key of the American Physical Therapy Association. Charles C. Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, 1951. 64 pages. \$2.25.

This type of text has a very limited appeal to physicians in general. Its value is directly applicable to anyone doing a very large amount of physical therapy and using massage as an element of treatment. It reads easily and is very clear. Any student of physical therapy or physician directing his talent towards rehabilitation will find it a very useful and clear picture of massage technique. The text concerns itself primarily with technique and for that reason loses a universal appeal. The indications in value of massage therapy for the treatment of injury or disease of the musculoskeletal system are not discussed.

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**METHODS IN MEDICAL RESEARCH—Volume 4.** By Maurice B. Vischner, M.D., Editor-in-Chief, Professor and Head, Department of Physiology, University of Minnesota Medical School. The Year Book Publishers, Inc., 200 East Illinois Street, Chicago, 1951. 306 pages. \$7.00.

The latest volume in this series continues the high standards of earlier ones. It opens with a brief but precise section, by George Gomori, on histochemical staining methods. The second section (L. B. Flexner, associate editor) is devoted to methods for the estimation of total body water, plasma volume, extracellular fluid volume, and calcium ion concentration; it also deals authoritatively with the use of

the flame photometer. The third section (S. P. Quigley) is concerned with studies on gastrointestinal pressures, innervation and secretions. The volume closes with a long section (C. M. Pomerat) on methods of tissue culture.

As was the case in previous volumes, each chapter is written by an appropriate authority; the earlier excellent custom of critical remarks by others has almost disappeared. Details of methods, bibliographies, and indexes to subjects and names appear to be satisfactory. The book is recommended to all medical librarians and to those individuals or groups interested in the designated topics.

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**COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION IN ACTION.** By Raymond S. Patterson, Ph.D., Director of Health Education, John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company, and Beryl J. Roberts, Ed.M., M.P.H., Associate in Health Education, Harvard School of Public Health. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, Missouri, 1951. 346 pages. \$4.50.

In these days of growing appreciation that the physician must teach his patients, as well as dose them, there is at least one chapter of this book, "Education by Word-of-Mouth," which ought to be studied by every doctor, even though it is addressed primarily to persons whose major activity is community health education. Here is given lucid, usable information on the conditions under which patients can be taught and the methods of teaching which will be found most effective. Those of us who are ambitious to improve public relations for the medical profession will find much to help us in other parts of the book as well.

The contents include discussions of what is meant by health education and what health educators do, the basic principles of the learning process, specific advice on lecturing, writing, pamphleteering, radio and movie programs, and ways to appraise these methods and the results obtained through their use.

Without resorting to anecdotes and cute stories, a light touch is maintained throughout the volume, and it makes very easy reading. The authors are skillful in practicing what they preach.

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**PRACTICAL CLINICAL PSYCHIATRY—7th Edition.** By Edward A. Strecker, A.M., Sc.D., Litt.D., LL.D., M.D., Professor of Psychiatry, School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania; Franklin G. Ebaugh, M.D., Professor of Psychiatry, University of Colorado, School of Medicine; Jack R. Ewalt, M.D., Professor of Neuro-Psychiatry, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston. Section on *Psychologic Problems of Childhood* by Leo Kanner, M.D., Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. The Blakiston Company, Philadelphia, 1951. 506 pages. \$7.00.

The seventh edition of this standard textbook does not depart radically from its predecessors, but a good job has been done by the authors in keeping it abreast of recent advances in the field. This has always been an essentially practical book, and as such is well suited to the needs of the medical student. The approach is eclectic, and all points of view are given. The appended chapter on psychopathological problems of childhood by Kanner is well written, and should prove useful to all practitioners of medicine and especially to the pediatrician. In keeping the book up to date some of the simplicity of the earlier editions, a most desirable quality, has been sacrificed, but no doubt the increasing complexity of the field has made this inevitable. The rather scanty attention to the psychoneuroses in distinction to the psychoses makes this book of greater value to the medical student than to the physician, who, if he has chosen psychiatry as his specialty will not find it sufficiently profound, while if in general practice will miss a more complete treatment of the minor reaction types with which he must deal in everyday work.